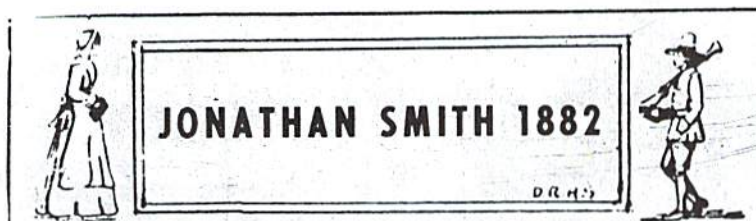


Duxbury Clipper, Thursday, April 19, 1973



On June 26, 1822 Jonathan Smith, master mariner, bought 4 acres of land from his father-in-law, Sylvanus Drew who described it as "the south end of the land I bought of the heirs of Winslow Thomas." It lay on the north side of the mill pond at Blue Fish River on the new road along the shore and ran back more than 500 feet, well across the present Cedar St. which had not been laid out then.

Captain Jonathan Smith was 42 years old, married 10 years, with 4 children when he built on the lot overlooking the mill pond. He made many profitable voyages in those 10 years and was well able to build a fine home. After 10 years of renting, a house of her own must have been a joy to Zilpah Drew Smith.

The new house was 2 stories, a so-called ship builder house, with ample room for a growing family, and Jonathan Jr. was born in the new house 2 years later. The original part followed the usual room arrangement for that period--2 parlors and hall across the front, a kitchen, flanked by pantry, buttry and burning room across the rear. Very heavy construction, massive timbers, braced against any wind, huge field stone cellar walls, and enormous chimney base all made for a sturdy house. Even the bulkhead steps are granite. Jonathan Smith built well and today the house weathers severe storms without a shudder.

Captain Smith died in 1843 and his widow and daughter, married to Dr. James Wilde, lived on in the house for many years. Indeed, it is generally called the Dr. Wilde house. It has also been a boarding house, and a girls' school at times, and many changes and alterations have been made. Mr. and Mrs. William Randebrook now own and occupy it as a year round home. And after all the years and all the varied uses, Captain Jonathan Smith's house stands above the mill pond, looking very much as it did when he built it in 1822.

Dorothy Wentworth,
Researcher